

Gossip of Washington

What Is Going On at the National Capital.

New Ships to Make Our Navy Lead All



WASHINGTON.—The navy department experts figure that the United States navy will be the first in rank in the world when the four new battleships proposed by Secretary Newberry have been completed.

The approximate time of the completion of these ships is the close of the year 1911. By that date there will have been completed these four: The Delaware and Dakota and the Florida and Utah.

The specific points made by the experts, however, is that the four new ships which have been suggested are to be of 25,000-ton displacement each and will carry eight 14-inch guns. Such a squadron of battleships will be unlike and superior to anything in naval history, both as to displacement and to main battery.

The astounding but absolutely true statement is made by the navy experts that the 14-inch guns will be effective at ten miles. It is also stated by these experts that Great Britain, after the appropriation by congress for the four proposed battleships, will never be able to regain its lead in modern battleships over the United States. England's greatest proposed battleship, the *Fondroyd*, is, according to the details in the United States naval bureau of intelligence, inferior to the Florida or the Utah.

It is admitted now that the United States stands second on the list of naval powers, and this is largely because the United States naval relative power depends on modern ships against which twenty or more of the British so-called battleships do not count and are not to be taken into account, because not one of them could approach within five miles of any of the United States battleships even of the Alabama class. Above that class in the United States are the South Carolina, Michigan and, of course, the American Dreadnaughts are all above that class. In other words, the United States has ship for ship, built and building, better and more powerful ships than Great Britain has built and is building for the next three years.

The navy department confidently expects to see the prediction of the experts realized in 1911 and the United States will lead the world in naval power. The experts declare that when the statement is made that Great Britain has at the present time 54 battleships against 29 of the United States, it only means an apparent numerical excess and that when the ships are compared one with the other, there are more dead or obsolete types and classes in the British navy than in any other navy.

The Slot-Machine of the Storms

By William Calhoun.

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"Look, Wilson, see what I've found!"

Bowen held in his hand a shining five-dollar gold piece which he had just picked up from the rocks.

We were on our annual outing. We had run up the river in a small steamer to the head of navigation. In a large rowboat, loaded with necessary camping outfit, we laboriously continued our course till we reached the wilderness. Here we found an old hunter and trapper named Gibbons, with whom we stayed for a night. Gibbons had spent the evening telling tales of his adventures in that region. Just before retiring he told us of the cliff at which we were now snugly camped.

"You'll be apt to like it there. Plenty of game and the best fishin' along the river. A fine spring bubblin' out o' the solid rock at the foot o' the cliff. Can't recommend you to a better place. Always camp there when I'm up that way. Used to go there for money from the rocks," said Gibbons, warning up to the occasion. "For ten years, after every storm, I found gold coins scattered about on the flat rocks below the cliff. Sometimes there was much, sometimes only a little. I went often in my old weathered boots and a hat, and when a storm had passed over. Once I stayed a month, but not a thing did I get till a terrible wind came along, after which I found five ten-dollar gold pieces as bright as the blaze in the fire there, and though I watched for two weeks I found nothing else. Another time, when a cyclone had gone through, I found three \$20 pieces. Spent a week tryin' to explain the mystery, but had to give it up. No human hand put that money there. It just rained out o' the clouds. One



No Chance This Time for Mistaken Senses.

day, when it was blowin' a hurricane, I heard something strike the cliff, as if it had been shot from the sky; then it fell jingling on the rocks below. Known that to happen several times.

"For ten years it was always the same old story, money after a wind and nothin' any other time. Eight years ago it stopped fallin' and, no matter how hard the wind blew, from that day to this no more money has ever been found. I guess it has all rained out. I'll take you there to-morrow."

For a half hour he answered the questions our curiosity prompted, and then we went to our cot. On the morrow, Gibbons guided us to the spot and, promising to return in a week, left us. We had established our camp under shelter of the precipitous cliff which overhung the river, eaten our supper, and were leisurely strolling about admiring the romantic surroundings, when Bowen found the money. Our surprise is now easily understood.

Under ordinary circumstances a man is surprised to find gold coins, but, with Gibbons' strange tale fresh in our ears, we stared at each other in speechless amazement. We looked the shining money over and over to make sure. We scanned the bald face of the cliff, glanced at the wild forest and the river, peered into the blue sky above, all in vain, for some clue as to the presence of the money. Then we tried for signs of recent human presence, but none existed. We searched for other coins, but found no more. Finally, we went to our couches in the tent, there to speculate and theorize on a possible explanation of the mystery, until, through sheer exhaustion, we fell into a slumber.

The next morning Bowen built a fire while I went to the spring for a pail of water. On my way I passed the edge of the steep and along over the rock floor, level and white as a city pavement. I was returning when my eye caught the glitter of a \$20 gold piece lying at my feet. In my excitement I called to Bowen and together we examined the rock thoroughly and found three pieces. As we had investigated well the evening before, it was clear the coins had arrived in some manner during the night. That any human being would deliberately put them there, even had it seemed possible that one could be near enough, was preposterous.

We went around to the other side of the highland, from which we could reach the top of the cliff, where we found ourselves on a grassy level of perhaps an acre in area. It was a beautiful spot, covered with trees and singularly free from undergrowth. The surface sloped gently away from the ledge, finally forming the floor of the dense forest in the rear.

Gibbons had told us of an Indian trader named Groom who had dwelt there in an early day and whose house was a favorite resort of Indians, trappers, and overland travelers for the far west. When a lad, Gibbons had often seen the great log cabin full of

WHITE SALE

Muslin Underwear Sale

Thursday, January 28
to Saturday, February 6

AFTER ALL THERE'S THE SALE

This Great Muslin Underwear Sale of ours with its tables filled with bright new, spic and span Undergarments, and its crowds of enthusiastic women, each one eager for her full complement of these beautiful Undermuslins. You ask---Why these crowds; why this enthusiasm? The answer is: Here's where we sound our greatest note of confidences, here's where we claim an absolute leadership over other stores---

The Selling of Undermuslins

And it's not all price we're boasting of during this sale—it's the unique combination of quality, daintiness and low price—the combination that has won us the leadership in other years. The bulk of our underwear is made in New England under thoroughly sanitary conditions, by the acknowledged leaders in Muslin Underwear manufacture, Green-Green Co., from whom we are the exclusive agents in this section. Their undermuslins are so good that some of the so-called big stores in Youngstown have repeatedly tried to secure them but failed. Our customers of other seasons will be here Thursday. Will you be here? There's no reason why you shouldn't.

39c Ea. Corset Covers, lace or embroidered trim, in round, square or V shaped yoke, also plain with hemstitched yoke and a cluster of six tucks; sold up to 69c each.

We are also showing a complete line of the better Corset Covers, G. & G. brand, in regular and extra sizes, from 49c to \$3.00, at the same big savings during this sale.

98c Ea. Ladies' and Misses' Skirts, made of good quality muslin and cambric, lace or embroidery trimmed, inserting edge and ruffles, big, roomy, well cut, well made Skirts; worth regularly \$1.39 each.

A full line of Ladies' Muslin India Linon and Cambric Under Skirts at prices ranging from \$1.00 to \$10.00.

39c Pr. Muslin Drawers, all sizes, good quality and excellent styles, in muslin or embroidery, trimmed, well made and full.

Other pieces in Drawers are being shown during this sale, in muslin and long cloth drawers, in regular and extra sizes, at 49c, 69c, 98c and up to \$3.00.

39c Ea. Ladies' Gowns, trimmed with lace or embroidery insertion, and edge with a cluster of tucks in the yoke and made of good quality muslin, worth up to 59c each.

The better gown are being shown during the sale at big reductions and we have a beautiful assortment in muslin, cambric, long cloth and nainsook; sold from 69c to \$5.00.

A Full Assortment of Children's and Misses' Undermuslins, Skirts, Gowns, Drawers, are Being Shown During This Sale at Reduced Prices

The Collier-Kane Co.,

Youngstown, Ohio

Alcohol School Opened by Government



THE government has now opened its alcohol school in the city of Washington for the instruction of the people of the United States in proper methods of making and using the de-aerated product.

For this purpose a model still has been erected close by the department of agriculture which is big enough to work up 25 bushels of corn a day, converting that quantity of grain into 75 gallons of 95 per cent. alcohol—that is to say, 95 per cent. pure. The plant represents the smallest outfit that can be conducted profitably on a commercial scale.

The farmers cannot very well see it for themselves, so arrangements have been made by which they may learn about it. Agricultural experts from the experiment stations in every one of the states are to go to Washington, examine the alcohol-making outfit, see how it works and listen to a course of lectures explaining its management. It will be their business when they go home to teach the farmers how to put up and how to operate plants of this character.

Inasmuch as such a plant could not be erected for less than \$2,500 it is obvious that the ordinary farmer would not be able to afford to construct one of the kind. But—and here is the point—a group of farmers representing a small neighborhood might do so.

Then they would bring their cornstalks and other such refuse to the "mill" and receive in return the alcohol. It is a simple method which farmers have long been accustomed to adopt where flour and other necessities were concerned.

The farmers are eager to find a cheap source of energy. Nowadays multitudes of them use gasoline for such purposes as grinding feed, cutting fodder and running the corn sheller, circular saw, horse clipper and griststone.

A farm in these times is more or less of a factory. But gasoline is expensive. Alcohol is comparatively cheap, and when manufactured from the farmer's own vegetable refuse it would cost next to nothing.

In France there are 27,000 farmer distillers who make alcohol for industrial purposes from molasses and sugar beets. It is high time that this idea was turned to profitable account in the United States. Rotten apples, fruit-bitten potatoes, stale water-melons, cornstalks and cobs and every other kind of vegetable refuse are available for the purpose.

Hearty Welcome for "Joe" Blackburn



IT is pleasant to have Senator Blackburn back in our midst again, to see his great, stalwart form swinging through the streets, to meet his semi-critical, semi-humorous smile and to feel his hearty hand clasp, but it is difficult to think of him in any environment save that of the senate chamber where he passed so many years. There has never been a member of that distinguished body more frankly, more genuinely and generally popular than "Joe" Blackburn. No matter how widely one differed with him in politics, it was impossible not to like him, for there is nothing about him to dislike. He is a prince of good fellows, a generous friend and a magnanimous foe. When the battle is in him, but he is as quick to forgive

and forget as he is to fight, and once the hatchet is buried, it is never resurrected.

It was with regret that Mr. Blackburn left the senate, but he has been almost as happy in his new field as on his old stamping ground and in the short year and a half of his service as one of the commissioners of the Isthmian canal he has become as popular in Panama as he was in Washington, and the style of life in the old Spanish city is especially pleasing to the silver-tongued Kentuckian. As everybody knows the United States government houses the public servants in Panama in magnificent style. The state in which they live, indeed, approaches that formerly enjoyed by the Spanish grandees in that part of the world, and the role of a Spanish grandee admirably suits the former senator from the Bluegrass state, who is so adjustable and so versatile that he is always at home no matter what his surroundings and so much at home in the Panama that his friends both here and there hope he will be allowed to remain during "good behavior."

Mint "Makes Money" for Your Uncle Sam



THE director of the mint has "made money" for the United States in more ways than one. He is rejoicing because the government made a profit during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1908, of \$10,541,371 on the coinage of silver, nickel and one-cent bronze pieces.

This represents the difference between the price paid by the government for the metals and their coinage value.

Try This Plan.

If you have an old bicycle pump around the house you can put it to good service when next you clean your sewing machine. Tiny pieces of lint, threads and the like can be blown out of the crevices and the machine cleaned in much less time. An atomizer can often be used for the same purpose.

Quality First.

Seneca: Let no man presume to give advice to others who has not first given good counsel to himself.

All the Letters.

The following is the shortest sentence, says Home Notes, containing all the letters of the alphabet: "Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs."

strangers. At last the Indians were removed to other lands, the overland route gradually changed to better paths, and Groom was deserted by his old customers. One day he was found dead. He was buried beneath his hearthstone, and then the locality slowly drifted back to its primitive condition. All that remained of the house was a tall stone chimney, near the edge of the precipice. By this old ruin stood the trunk of what had once been a great sugar tree.

Nothing about the place, however, seemed to have any possible connection with the gold. The history of the spot gave no explanation of the presence of coins at the base of the ledge 50 years later. Bowen and I examined the chimney, but found naught save the ragged stones. The sturdy old sugar tree by it creaked in the breeze. This forsaken acre furnished no trace at all, and we descended. We did little else for several days, except to fruitlessly investigate and theorize. Strangely, too, we found no more coins, though we watched persistently.

At the end of the week, according to promise, Gibbons arrived. He heard our experience with interest on only one point, the fact that the phenomenon should recur after years of cessation. To our conjectures he paid little attention.

"No use tryin'," said he skeptically. "I've investigated every nook and cranny. Spent ten years watchin' and pryin' off and on, 'round this old headland, crackin' my brain over the cause. Have sat all night and all day, more times than I'm years old, tryin' to discover the secret, and all I ever learned was to hear the sudden jingle of the metal when it struck the cliff in time of storm and rattled down. It wasn't thrown from the top, for I've heard it while sitting at the foot of the chimney up there in broad daylight. You may study it till you're old, and that's all you'll ever know."

As we discussed the matter a gale began blowing. It grew stronger rapidly and was accompanied by the rumblings of distant thunder. Huge black clouds approached with frightful velocity. In our location under the precipice, protected from the gathering storm, we could watch the trees lash each other like whips.

Suddenly, as if by magic, two gold eagles dropped straight from the clouds overhead and rang resonantly on the stones near. No chance this time for mistaken senses, as three of us witnessed their descent. They came from the storm-laden sky, no doubt at all about it. Then came an

other and another, and following them a shower of coins. It seemed a dozen or more were jingling around us. A fearful peal of thunder heralded a fresh burst of the angry elements and the wind raged with the fury of demons. We heard a deafening crash overhead and the old chimney came tumbling in a heap to the foot of the cliff, the sugar tree with it. Then the velocity of the wind began to slacken, the sound of crashing timber ceased.

When our fears were somewhat allayed we began to reconnoiter. Near the heap made by the fallen chimney we found a distorted tube, resembling the gutters and conductors placed at the eaves of houses. It was battered, rusty and rotten with age and contained several heaping handfuls of coins and a number of musty parchments and papers. On examining the wreckage of the chimney we found that the tube had been carefully placed in a chamber specially arranged for its reception. Two slits had rusted in the sides of the tin, one a few inches from the bottom and the other higher up. It was evident that the heavy winds, shaking the sugar tree and the chimney, had made of the tube a nickel-in-the-slot machine, by forcing coins through the narrow apertures. After the coins had worked down to the level of the higher slot it was eight years before the second and lower one rusted through, thus causing the dropping to resume.

As the tube, by the weathering of the chimney, lay inclined, it formed a sort of chute. A coin, once slipping through, slid along the spouting for a few inches and finally shot over the precipice, having the appearance of coming from skyward.

We found papers recording the honorable discharge of Malachi Groom as a veteran of the war of 1812, and a package of letters written by his sweetheart, Cecilia Bliss, concerning whom we learned some strange facts from a faded manuscript. She had been captured by the Indians. On Groom's discharge he had made diligent search and ascertained that she had perished at the stake a few feet from the old sugar tree. He gathered the ashes and buried them where the stake had stood and erected the stone chimney above the spot, adding to it the cabin that he might dwell near her resting place. On the wall was the distinct signature of the old soldier, bestowing the money to the finder, on condition that the letters be laid by Groom's side. Under Gibbons' guidance we reburied the letters beneath the old hearthstone near which the ashes of his sweetheart had reposed for 90 years.

TOO MUCH WORK FOR ONE WIFE.

Nigerian Needs Several Property to Minister to His Comfort.

According to the Geographical Journal of London the marital relations among the peoples of Nigeria vary somewhat according to their state of civilization: "Polygamy is the rule, the reason being that it is impossible for one woman to do all the work of the house, look after the children, prepare and cook the food, fetch the daily supply of water (often an arduous job), cultivate the plantation and go to market. The African is an exceedingly hungry person. It is the custom to eat several times a day when at home, and the men spend most of their day sitting in the palaver house or market place, while the women bring the food all day long. One wife could not possibly do this. Besides, the African lady encourages it, for she says, 'The more wives, the less work.'

"Among the Aghlars, Onichas, Obuwus and the lower class of pagan tribes in the interior, there is very little form of marriage. As soon as a man has the means, he pays the parents what they want, in the shape of goats, cows, beads and money, and takes the girl. There is no ceremony at all. The more wives the greater riches he is supposed to have and the better he will be looked after.

"If, of course, they can manage to seize a woman from the neighboring tribe while she is fetching water or working on her farm, so much the cheaper. With this method in vogue for centuries, no wonder that it is as much as a native's life is worth to go out of his own village, and that the country is so backward."

Origin of Bank Check.

A Frenchman quoted in a Paris letter of the London Globe tells of the origin of the present day bank check. It is well known, he says, that the fog is so dense at times in London that everything is blotted out. That is the opportunity of the marauder, and he is not slow in turning it to his profit. At the beginning of last century the attacks made upon bank messengers and others became so numerous that tradesmen and manufacturers began to think seriously of devising some means of protecting themselves. They therefore invented the check, which enabled a man to go about with little ready money and renders useless the indirect exploration of a pocketbook.

Take your watches and clocks of Carpenter

ITALIAN CHEAP LIVING.

Railroad Laborers Able to Get Along on Less than \$10 a Month.

That Italian laborers save more money at the same wages than any other European immigrants is a statement made in a report of the department of commerce and labor. The reason is easily found, says the New York Sun.

A great majority of the unskilled laborers in this country are employed in railroad construction and similar work where there are no accommodations for boarding and lodging the men. The boarding camp thus becomes essential to the contracting company.

In the case of men of all nationalities except the Italians a fixed charge is made for the boarding and lodging of each man. The Italians, however, insist on buying and cooking their own food.

Investigation of the records of a contracting company employing many laborers of various nationalities in railroad construction showed that the actual cost to the company of groceries, provisions and payment for cooks, waiters, fuel, light, etc., at its boarding camps was 19 cents a meal, or \$5.99 a week for each man. The men were charged \$18 a month for board and lodging.

The Italians at the camps of the same company lived mostly on macaroni, sausage, cheese, sardines and bread being the staples and the others used very sparingly. The average monthly expense of each laborer was as follows: Twenty-five one and one-half pound loaves of bread at 8 cents, \$2; thirty pounds of macaroni at 7 cents, \$2.10; sausage, sardines and cheese, \$1.50; fuel, 90 cents.

Most of the Italians in addition to that amount spent an average of \$3 a month for beer, cheap cigars and tobacco, which with the expense of \$1 a month for shanty rent brought the total cost of living up to about \$10 a month.

Teacher Makes the Man.

No greater service can be rendered the youth of a country than to train good teachers and professors for its benefit.

A Welsh Record.

There are on the membership roll of a church in Fyle, Wales, twelve people whose ages average 82½ years, the youngest of the group being 77, and the oldest 93. Is this a record?